Scott Blake, Chair Constable Maricopa County

Valerie Beckett County Administrator Maricopa County

Melissa Buckley Public Member

Mike Cobb Constable Mohave County



STATE OF ARIZONA

# CONSTABLE ETHICS, STANDARDS AND TRAINING BOARD

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## Minutes of Public Meeting – August 12, 2021

Dennis Dowling, Vice Chair Justice Court Yavapai County

Matt Giardano AZPOST

Christine Shipley, Secretary Multihousing Association

A public teleconference meeting of the Constables Ethics, Standards and Training Board (CESTB) was convened on August 12, 2021 at 9:02 a.m. CESTB Board members present via teleconference were: Chairman Constable Scott Blake, Matt Giordano, Constable Mike Cobb, and Valerie Beckett. Board members joining after the meeting was in progress included Vice Chair Judge Dennis Dowling and Melissa Buckley. Members absent included Christine Shipley. The following staff was present – Tracy Unmacht. Also present from public was Patrice Goodman, Scott Davis, Constable Doug Clark, Constable Kristen Randall.

A quorum was reached and the following matters were discussed and decided at the meeting:

## **Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

Corrections: None

Valerie Beckett made a motion to approve the minutes as presented from the July 8, 2021 CESTB meeting and Mike Cobb seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Dennis Dowling and Melissa Buckley joined the meeting.

**Financial Report:** Staff reviewed the June financial report. Matt Giordano made a motion to approve the June financial report and Mike Cobb seconded. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Call to the Public: Constable Kristin Randall provided a status update on completion of her new constable training.

#### **Constable Complaints:**

CNA269-2021 Randall – The new constable training was to be completed by May 3<sup>rd</sup>, which the constable failed to do, resulting in the CESTB initiating this complaint. At the July meeting the CESTB was told that all required courses had been completed but Constable Randall was waiting on a trainer to provide the final certificates of completion. Board members agreed to postpone a decision. All certificates have now been received by the CESTB. Matt Giordano commented that while the timeline for completing the training was not ideal, since the training has been completed he made a motion to dismiss the complaint. Melissa Buckley seconded. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0.

## Initial Screening of new Constable Complaints:

Complaint received 7-21-21 Kusama v Wirthlin – Chairman Blake reviewed the complaint. Mike Cobb made a motion to open a complaint investigation to obtain more information and Dennis Dowling seconded. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0.

Complaint received 7-21-21 Rucker v Clark – Chairman Blake reviewed the complaint in which the complainant has filed a 3<sup>rd</sup> party complaint about an issue that was already adjudicated by this board. Dennis Dowling made a motion to dismiss and Matt Giordano seconded. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0.

Complaint received 7-26-21 Dooley v J. Curtis – Chairman Blake reviewed the complaint in which the complainant said the constable frightened her. He had been watching her home waiting for her to arrive so he could serve the eviction. Mike Cobb said taking that kind of action is a normal part of the job, and often the person being served is understandably upset

and made a motion to dismiss the complaint. Matt Giordano seconded and the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote 6-0.

**Recognition for Outgoing Board Members** – Matt Giordano provided some cost information on a possible vendor (the ACI Division of the Department of Corrections) that could be used to order a recognition plaque for Sheriff Adam Shepherd for his past service on the CESTB board. Matt Giordano made a motion to move forward with obtaining the plaque at a cost not to exceed \$75 and Mike Cobb seconded. Discussion – Dennis Dowling is familiar with ACI and said it is a great program. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

## **Administrative Update**

Following the close of CNA269-2021 today, which is the final pending complaint for FY21, staff will post the final FY21 complaint synopsis to the website. Staff has been working on getting the annual planning and budget submissions prepare for the Governor's office that are due September 1<sup>st</sup>. The CESTB receive another public records request for every complaint since January 1, 2015 and staff has spent a great deal of time assembling and sending all of the documents. The first cycles of Outside Training and Equipment grants are due August 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff requested the ACA send a communication to the constables reminding them of the deadlines. Applications will be reviewed for approval at the September board meeting. Mike Cobb brought up a situation where a constable was seeking help from the CESTB regarding a perceived conflict of interest in his county for him to serve as a deputy as well as a constable. The CESTB is not in a position to make a statement or take a position on such matters.

**Adjournment:** Mike Cobb made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Matt Giordano seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Dated this 9th day of September, 2021 Constable Ethics, Standards and Training Board

By The Hon. Scott Blake

**CESTB Chairman** 

Scott C. Blake